

sending the partisan of Anacletus
 prisoner to
 Innocent, and instituting in the see of
 St. Ambrose
 a Metropolitan more obsequious to the
 latter Pope,
 On the 9th October, 1136, Lothar and
 his host,
 having climbed the Brenner and
 descended the
 valley of the Adige, encamped on the
 Roncaglman
 plain outside Piacenza, They found
 Lombardy
 east and west a battle-ground of
 communes, a
 network of city leagues divided by the
 most un-
 relenting feuds. With little success did
 the un-
 tiring Bernard strive to reconcile the
 combatants
 with one another and with the
 Emperor. The
 imperial Rome-journey was becoming
 harder in
 every generation: less than a hundred
 years before,
 Henry III. marched through Italy with
 something
 akin to a welcome; now Lothar had to
 straggle
 through one wide mesh of hostile or
 suspicious
 towns jealous of their new liberties,
 and com-
 pelled to cut his way with the sword,
 The slow
 and costly advance of Italy's lawful lord
 did much
 to save Roger at the final encounter,
 Under the
 walls of Trent, at the defile of Verona, at
 Guastalla,
 a way had to be made by the
 irresistible charges
 of the German knights upon townsmen
 and peas-

ants. On the Roncaglian plain forty
thousand
Milanese flocked in, and a vast array of
Italian
vassals, bishops, counts, burghers,
gathered under
the Imperial banner, attested the
splendour of the
Empire, The Milanese soon returned
home,
Lothar had glutted their unholy hate of